

My name is Sandra Villanueva I am a resident of New Haven and I am an immigrant.

I am in support of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD FOR A PERSON ELIGIBLE BY INCOME TO OBTAIN HEALTH CARE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY to age 18, regardless of immigration status, is an important step in ensuring that our immigrant community has access to the health care we need. But our work doesn't end with expanding access to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

I have two children and neither they nor I have health insurance. I filled out applications several times to see if they would give us health insurance especially for my children, but they always denied me. They said we are not eligible because my children were not born here and we are not residents. I have taken them to the hospital several times because they have been running a fever and were not feeling well and another time because they fell and broke their hand on a school trip to a skating rink. At the hospital they did take care of them but when they sent me the bills they were very expensive, they gave me applications and I was able to send them but it takes time and patience to send them. It is stressful so I would like to expand the HUSKY for minors and for all undocumented people with scarce economic resources.

I support SB 284 and ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Moving forward, I ask the committee to work to open access to all immigrants, regardless of age.